

## Grave of The Month - Hannah Thomas



Hannah Thomas died in April 1879 aged 70.

Her grave is large, well-carved so expensive, but she was not from a wealthy family.

She was born in the Welford district.

By 1851 she was working as a house servant to Samuel and Ann Bentall who were living at 51 Northbrook St (Carter Jonas today)

Samuel was a draper and silk mercer. By 1871 the Bentalls had moved to 17, Donnington Square, no longer living above the shop. Hannah moved with them.

Hannah and her employers were Wesleyan Methodists.

The surprising thing is that Samuel, Ann and three of their children are buried near Hannah but none of them have gravestones. Perhaps Samuel used the money (~£300) left in Hannah's will to buy the memorial stone?

Hannah lived with the family when the five children were young. She was with them when Louisa, Ellen and Henry died, all under 25. "Faithful unto death" as her grave says.

Ros Clow April 2022